INFORMATION LETTER

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MANPOWER LEGISLATION IS HEADED FOR CONFERENCE

Bill Passed by Senate Differs Widely from House Measure

The Senate on Thursday passed the manpower bill reported by its Military Affairs Committee as a substitute for the May bill passed by the House, after adding a penalty clause for employers who wilfully violate any orders or regulations, and a provision for the establishment of administrative tribunals to hear any person who claims that action taken with respect to him is unreasonable.

There was included the Tydings amendment on farm labor providing that local draft boards in classifying the registrant shall base their findings solely and exclusively on whether the registrant is necessary to and regularly engaged in an agricultural occupation and whether a satisfactory replacement can be obtained without reference to the relative essentiality of the registrant to an agricultural occupation as compared with any other occupation or service. The Senate eliminated a further provision that would have held in their agricultural occupations deferred farm labor found unacceptable to the armed forces.

The final form of the legislation must be worked out in conference as the Senate version of the measure differs widely from the May bill as passed by the House. The chief provisions as reported by the Senate Military Affairs Committee were summarized on page 8531 of the INFORMATION LETTER for February 24. A summary of the May bill was given on page 8489 of the LETTER for January 27.

Hearings on Price Control

At hearings before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee on the bill (S. J. Res. 30) to extend the Emergency Price Control Act, James F. Brownlee, Deputy Price Administrator, stated that in its pricing policies OPA puts a floor under profits, not a ceiling over them. In acting on applications for increases, he said, OPA must consider the profit angle in order to determine whether the applicant—an individual or an industry—needs the increase to maintain average earnings for the base period—1936-1939.

A. H. Hinrichs, Acting Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, presented data to show the trend of price and living costs and wages before, during and after the last war as compared with the present war. He told the Committee that price stabilization must be continued after the present war in order to prevent sharp rises, and that we are facing an even more ex-

(Continued on page 8549)

Sales to Government from 1945 Pack Possible under OPA Order

Canners may sell canned fruits, berries, and vegetables of the 1945 pack to government procurement agencies subject to an agreement in each case that the price may be determined after delivery, on the basis of any new maximum price that the Office of Price Administration may establish for the commodity. The action, effective March 8 under Order 24 to Supplement 7 to Food Products Regulation 1, is necessary, OPA said, because government procurement agencies are now making arrangements to buy canned foods from the 1945 pack. Text of the order follows:

For the reasons set forth in an opinion issued simultaneously herewith, and in accordance with section 14 (i) of Supplement 7 to Food Products Regulation No. 1, *It is ordered:*

(a) That sales and deliveries of the products covered by Supplement 7 to Food Products Regulation No. 1 of the 1945 pack may be made by processors to government procurement agencies, subject to an agreement between the buyer and seller in each case, that the price shall be determined pursuant to action taken by the Office of Price Administration after delivery.

In any such sale the processor shall not invoice the goods at a price higher than the maximum price in effect at the time of delivery, nor shall he receive payment of more than that price until permitted by action taken by the Office of Price Administration.

(b) This order shall be automatically revoked as to each product referred to in paragraph (a) upon the establishment by the Office of Price Administration of new maximum prices for it.

(c) This order may be revoked or amended by the Price Administrator at any time.

This order shall become effective March 8, 1945.

VINSON ISSUES DIRECTIVE ON FRINGE WAGE CASES

Authorizes WLB to Make Adjustments Within Specified Limits

In his final action as Director of the Office of Economic Stabilization, Fred M. Vinson issued a directive to the War Labor Board authorizing it to approve specified classes of "fringe" wage adjustments not directly involving basic wage rates. If, however, there is reason to believe that such adjustments will cause an increase in price ceilings or production costs they can become effective only if approved by the Director of Economic Stabilization. The text of the directive states:

1. The National War Labor Board is hereby authorized to approve or direct the classes of wage adjustments herein set forth, irrespective of Paragraph 2 of Executive Order No. 9328. If there is reason to believe that such adjustments will cause an increase in price ceilings or production costs they shall become effective only if approved by the Director of Economic Stabilization:

(a) Vacation provisions up to one week after one year of service and two weeks after five years of service;

(b) Shift differentials in non-continuous operations not to exceed 4 cents per hour for the second shift, and 8 cents per hour for the third shift;

(c) Merit increases and automatic progressions on a basis no more liberal than that embodied in the Board's present standards;

(d) Reclassification and job reevaluation not to exceed an average increase for all employees in the plant or plants covered by the order or authorization of one cent per hour or one per cent. The Board shall continue to use its present safeguards to prevent such adjustments from becoming general wage increases. In rare and unusual cases affecting the critical needs of war production the Board may authorize or direct re-classifications or re-evaluations in excess of these amounts, but such adjustments shall become effective only if approved by the Director of Economic Stabilization.

2. Other non-basic rate wage adjustments or changes in working conditions effecting earnings shall remain subject to the provisions of Paragraph 2 of Executive Order 9328. The letter of February 10, 1944, from the Director of Economic Stabilization to the National War Labor Board is hereby rescinded.

Executive Order 9328 is the hold-the-line order of April 8, 1943, paragraph 2 of which states:

2. The National War Labor Board, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and other agencies exercising authority conferred by Executive Order No. 9250 or Executive Order 9299 and the regulations issued pursuant thereto over wage or salary increases are directed to authorize no further increase in wages or salaries except such as are clearly necessary to correct substandards of living, provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent such agencies from making such wage or salary adjustments as may be deemed appropriate and may not have heretofore been made to compensate, in accordance with the Little Steel Formula as heretofore defined by the National War Labor Board, for the rise in the cost of living between January 1, 1941, and May 1, 1942. Nor shall anything herein be construed to prevent such agencies, subject to the general policies and directives of the Economic Stabilization Director, from authorizing reasonable adjustments of wages and salaries in case of promotions, reclassifications, merit increases, incentive wages or the like, provided that such adjustments do not increase the level of production costs appreciably or furnish the basis either to increase prices or to resist otherwise justifiable reductions in prices.

As reported in last week's INFORMATION LETTER, the War Labor Board has authorized its Regional Boards to determine what rate or rates up to 55 cents an hour constitute substandard wages in their regions for the purpose of permitting consideration of adjustments up to 55 cents an hour. However, if such adjustments furnish the basis either to increase price ceilings or resist justifiable reductions in ceilings, they can become effective only if approved by the Economic Stabilization Director.

Tomato Flea Beetle Control

The tomato flea beetle is the most important insect pest of tomatoes at present in New York, according to the Sixty-second Annual Report of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. Not only does the flea beetle destroy leaf tissue, but, in addition, this insect has been suspected of spreading leaf blight, the report states.

Seedbed treatment with bordeaux mixture and ½ per cent "summer" oil was the only one that gave continued protection after transplanting. Spraying or dusting with calcium arsenate both before and after setting the plants in the field reduced the feeding to about 25 per cent of that found on check plats. The addition of copper oxychloride sulfate to calcium arsenate sprays and dusts did not increase the effectiveness over calcium arsenate alone. Rotenone dust and talc dust without other insecticides or fungicides were somewhat less effective than calcium arsenate dust.

Preliminary results indicate that leaf blight developed independently of the flea beetles and that spraying or dusting with an insecticide alone did not reduce the severity of the disease.

OPA Issues Order to Cover Special Government Packing

Packing charges for the special packing of foods bought by war procurement agencies will be based on the seller's customary accounting practices, the Office of Price Administration has announced. The action was taken in the issuance of Supplementary Order 106, effective February 22.

The order applies only to foods and food products packed according to government specifications which differ from standard packing. Foods for war procurement agencies are being removed from coverage of the general commodity packing order because the industry's packing problems vary substantially from those encountered in packing machinery and other goods, OPA said.

The action provides for two pricing methods, one for the seller who packs a food commodity himself, and the other for a seller who has the packing done by another person. In general, prices are geared to the industry's established accounting practices, subject to review by the war procurement agency.

Under the former regulation, maximum prices were based on a more limited range of packing costs allowed by OPA. The new provisions incorporate more liberal procedures, and may give the industry slightly higher returns for their packing services.

A seller who packs the food commodity himself may charge a maximum price no higher than the difference between the total cost of the special packing and the cost of standard packing. He figures the special packing cost according to his established accounting practices.

A seller who employs the services of an independent contractor may charge a maximum price no higher than the amount actually paid to the contractor, less the cost of standard packing. Special packing is exempt from price control wherever the sale of the commodity to be packed is exempt from price control, and where the price charge for the commodity with special packing is no higher than the maximum price for the commodity with standard packing.

Semi-centennial of Scientific Research on Canning

Fifty years ago Dr. H. L. Russell of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station announced the results of his research work on bacterial spoilage and processing of canned peas in that State. In the following year these results were confirmed and extended by the report of the work done by Professors Underwood and Prescott of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who devoted their attention to the canning of certain sea foods and vegetables, and recommended processing times and temperatures for these products.

Although Louis Pasteur had pointed out 35 years before that the preservation of foods by cooking them and packing them in air-tight containers—the method originated by Nicolas Appert in France—was due to destruction of microorganisms in raw foods by heat, the work of the American scientists formed the practical basis for much of the research work on which the modern canning industry is founded.

Eleven Canners Get "A" Award

The War Food Administration's achievement "A" award will be presented to 11 canners in 7 States at ceremonies which are being arranged for individual plants. The awards are being made in recognition of outstanding performance in the processing of food. Plants to receive the award are:

F. E. Booth Co., Inc., plants at Centerville and Pittsburg, Calif.; Danish Creamery Association, Chowchilla, Calif.; Libby, McNeill & Libby, Selma, Calif.; Cudahy Packing Company, Sioux City, Iowa; S. E. W. Friel, Wye Mills, Md.; Otoe Food Products Company, Nebraska City, Neb.; J. M. Smucker Co., Orrville, Ohio; Engleman Products Company, Elsa, Tex.; and Patterson's Cannery, Cooper, Tex.; Baker Canning Co., Theresa, Wis.; Smith Bros. of Port Washington, Inc., Port Washington, Wisconsin.

Successful Cane-fruit Growing

Successful cane-fruit production depends to a great extent on the control of diseases and insect pests attacking these crops, according to the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station at Corvallis. A new bulletin, published by the station, presents descriptions and suggestions for control of these crop hazards affecting raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, loganberries and other cane fruits.

Farmer's Share of Consumer's Dollar Sets Record in 1944

The farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for farm food products averaged 53 cents during 1944, the highest annual average recorded since the 52 cents averaged in 1943 and the 51 cents in 1918, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has reported. All other years of record, beginning with 1913, show the farmer's share below 50 cents with a depression low of 32 cents in 1932.

Many of the factors which made possible the record high farmer's share in 1944 are quite different from those leading to the 1918 share marking the record high during World War I. Retail cost of the market basket was $451 in 1944 compared with $458 in 1918. Payments to farmers for equivalent produce were $239 in 1944 and $235 in 1918. The marketing margin, or spread between these valuations at retail and at the farm, amounted to $212 in 1944 and $223 in 1918. However, in 1944 marketing agencies received about $12 of government payments in addition to the marketing margin, making their total marketing charges for the year $224, about the same as in 1918. The advantage of 1944 over 1918 in terms of the farmer's share is almost entirely explained by these government marketing payments. Another factor is the substantial government payments to food producers in 1944. Food prices were rapidly rising during 1918, enabling marketing agencies to realize higher actual margins between cost and sales than was shown by concurrent prices, but prices were substantially stabilized during 1944, with ceilings on both prices and dealer margins.

1944 Green and Wax Bean Pack

The pack of green and wax beans in 1944 totaled 16,297,304 actual cases, compared with 20,866,608 cases in 1943, according to figures compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics from all canners who are known to have packed beans in 1944. The green bean pack in 1944 was 14,818,392 cases, a decrease of 3,898,154 from the preceding year. The 1944 wax bean pack was 1,478,912 cases, a decrease of 671,150.

On the basis of 24 No. 2 cans to the case, the 1944 green bean pack was 16,645,081 cases and that of wax beans 1,551,413 cases, a total of 18,196,494 cases.

The following table shows the pack by States in actual cases in the two years:

	1943		1944	
	Green	Wax	Green	Wax
	Cases	*Cases*	*Cases*	*Cases*
Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts	247,800	494,528	246,706	314,111
New York	1,433,111	629,040	1,324,668	489,329
Maryland and Delaware	3,712,292	73,377	3,104,262	37,268
Pennsylvania	546,512	164,106	436,426	85,734
Indiana	117,976	5,973	84,947	2,111
Michigan	622,182	246,624	471,386	166,058
Wisconsin	1,280,619	391,002	923,457	299,356
Iowa and Nebraska	73,737	28,258	40,405	9,043
Kentucky and Tennessee	560,271	850	714,948	.....
Arkansas and Missouri	1,818,906	.....	1,690,071	1,113
Texas	1,025,400	.....	1,011,358	.....
Colorado	300,314	53,560	259,915	37,460
Utah and Idaho	183,346	15,280	140,159	11,320
Washington	581,810	7,540	397,902	4,976
Oregon	2,012,461	18,003	1,957,191	5,506
California	579,483	.....	524,409	.....
Other States	3,620,146	21,903	1,490,782	15,527
Total	18,716,546	2,150,062	14,818,392	1,478,912

Report on Canning Available

An analysis of the production and wholesale distribution of the fruit and vegetable canning industry has been prepared by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in cooperation with the Business Division, Bureau of the Census, and Processed Foods Branch, Food Rationing Division, Office of Price Administration.

This study contains annual data from 1934-35 to estimated 1945-46 for each canned fruit and vegetable product, showing stocks, production, and war service and civilian shipments of packers, wholesale distributors, and chain-store warehouses. Substantially the same data are shown for individual products on a monthly basis from 1942 to date.

Copies of the report can be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington 25, D. C., or from the Field Offices of the Department of Commerce. Further reports will be issued periodically, and names of persons interested in receiving them will be added to the mailing list upon direct request to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington.

Government to Sell or Lease 39 Hemp-processing Plants

The Defense Plant Corporation has 39 hemp-processing plants located in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota which it desires to lease or sell. These plants are similar in general layout with five to nine buildings, and equipment consisting of about 150 pieces of machinery, etc. Each plant is situated on from 40 to 50 acres of land. The Government will entertain proposals for the sale of the buildings without the land.

Possession of some of the plants can be secured some time during the present year.

Plants are located in the four States as follows:

Illinois—Earlville, Galesburg, Galva, Kirkland, Laddo, Lexington, Muncie, Minonk, Shabbona, and Wyoming.

Iowa—Algona, Boone, Britt, Eagle Grove, Grundy Center, Hampton, Humboldt, Iowa Falls, Mason City, Rockford, and Traer.

Wisconsin—Cuba City, Darien, DeForest, Hartford, Ripon, and Union Grove.

Minnesota—Bird Island, Blooming Prairie, Grove City, Hutchinson, Jackson, Lake Lillian, Mapleton, Montgomery, New Richmond, Sherburn, Wells, and Windom.

Interested parties are invited to contact the Defense Plant Corporation at Chicago, Ill., for information concerning the plants in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, and the DPC office at Minneapolis, Minn., for information concerning the Minnesota plants.

WPB Manpower Office Issues Guide on Certifying Procedure

For the assistance of employers in the industries for which the War Production Board is authorized to certify to local draft boards the "irreplaceability and indispensability" of essential deferred employees under 30 years of age, the WPB Office of Manpower Requirements has published a guide outlining the proper procedures to be followed, entitled "Advice to Employers Regarding Selective Service." Copies may be obtained from the WPB Office of Manpower Requirements, Washington, D. C., or the nearest WPB field office.

The War Food Administration is the certifying agency for the canning industry, and last week the Association published a Supplement to the INFORMATION LETTER, which was sent to all members of the industry, furnishing information for canners on the certification procedure, Selective Service regulations, etc.

Supplementary Order Issued for Special Government Sales

Special maximum prices or price control exemptions may be issued covering sales of food or food products by government agencies and subsequent resales of the same food items, the Office of Price Administration has announced. Authority to issue special maximum prices or exemptions in the form of orders is granted OPA regional offices, as many of these special cases may develop in the field, OPA said.

The new pricing provisions are contained in Amendment 2 to Supplementary Order 81, effective March 10, 1945, and are designed to take care of special cases that cannot be priced under the methods already provided or where a special exemption from price control should be given. Such special cases, for example, would be where food may have deteriorated so that it could no longer be sold for human consumption but would be suitable for animal food, or for processing into animal food. Other special cases would be certain foods made to special military specifications, which are subsequently sold by the Government for civilian consumption because for some reason they are not wanted by the armed forces.

Under a supplementary order effective January 12, 1944, government sales of food products are generally held to price ceilings similar to those established for private sellers in the civilian market, and no provision existed heretofore to take care of special cases.

Sardines from Portugal and Spain to be Sold in U. S.

The Combined Food Board has announced plans for obtaining for the United Nations 3,000,000 cases of sardines expected to be available from the 1945 packs in Portugal and Spain.

The British Ministry of Food has been designated to procure for the United Nations, except the United States, 1,850,000 cases of the Portuguese standard pack (that is, other than boneless and skinless) and 940,000 cases of the Portuguese standard pack. These will be allocated to the various nations.

The remainder of the available surplus—150,000 cases from Portugal and 60,000 cases from Spain—consisting of types not procured by the British Food Ministry, may be purchased by private importers in the United States.

Maximum sales prices for these sardines by importers in the United States will be established by the Office of Price Administration under its import prices regulations, which now recognize foreign purchase prices not in excess of those in effect in April, 1943. Tin plate for the packing of these sardines will be made available at OPA export prices only to importers who agreed not to exceed the foreign purchase prices of sardines specified in the import authorizations. These specified prices, reflecting the lower cost of tin plate to Portuguese and Spanish packers, will bring foreign purchase prices below those in effect in April, 1943.

WFA Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables Are Reported

Upon request of the House Appropriations Committee, the War Food Administration has made available for the first time a detailed report of its holdings of canned fruits and vegetables. The report includes items on track, in transit, in storage, and consigned to programs, but does not include inventories of the armed forces. The figures submitted to the committee, which show the WFA canned food holdings as of January 31, 1945, are as follows:

	Pounds
Fruits, total	83,651,676
Apples	11,600
Apricots	22,923,979
Figs	149,436
Fruit cocktail	4,454,783
Grapefruit segments	888,644
Peaches	30,105,588
Pears	14,536,469
Pineapple	10,123,004
Prunes	458,203
Vegetables, total	179,248,607
Asparagus	488,513
Beans, snap	30,319,701
Beets	10,975,203
Carrots	5,265,040
Corn	314,989
Peas	67,072,315
Potatoes	15,493,564
Spinach	4,892,479
Tomatoes	36,519,842
Tomato paste	7,365,092
Tomato puree	541,569

OPA Issues Correction

The Office of Price Administration has issued the following correction of an error which appeared in the collation of Amendments 1 through 21 to Supplement 7 to Food Products Regulation 1:

The compilation of Supplement 7 to Food Products Regulation 1, including Amendments 1–21, is corrected as follows:

In the list of packed vegetables in Section 6, the second item under Group III, is corrected to read "Mixed vegetable juices."

This correction shall become effective as of February 17, 1945.

Issued this 23rd day of February, 1945.

Most Stores Have Stocks of Canned Vegetables, BLS Says

Most kinds of canned vegetables and citrus juices were on the shelves of independent retail grocers in 56 large cities on February 13, according to the regular mid-monthly survey of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The report shows, however, that 72 per cent of the stores were out of canned pineapple and that 9 per cent had no stocks of canned peas.

The following table shows the percentage of independent stores covered by the survey that were out of stocks of specified canned products on February 13 as compared with January 16 and December 12.

Product	Dec. 12	Jan. 16	Feb. 13
	Pct.	*Pct.*	*Pct.*
Apricots	13	a	11
Catsup and chili sauce	a	3	1
Citrus fruit juices	a	5	2
Mixed vegetable juices	a	5	2
Peas	1	a	9
Pineapple	58	a	72
Tomatoes	2	a	3
Tomato juice	a	a	1

a These items were not reported for this period.

Correction

Point values for canned orange juice were erroneously listed in the INFORMATION LETTER for March 3 as 10 points for the No. 2 can. This should have been listed as zero as all sizes of canned orange juice are assigned a zero point value by the OPA.

Canned Milk Statistics

Canned evaporated milk production during January, estimated at 252 million pounds, was the highest January output of record except for 1942 when 314,920,000 pounds were produced, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The gain in January production over the same month last year was 31 per cent, and over the 5-year (1939-43) January average was 29 per cent. January production of canned sweetened condensed milk was 9,550,000 pounds, 8 per cent more than the 8,810,000 pounds a year ago and 94 per cent more than the 5-year January average.

Stocks of canned evaporated milk in manufacturers' hands on January 31, 1945, were extremely low despite the high production levels prevailing. At 131,743,000 pounds, stocks were lower than the 143,308,000 pounds on December 31, 1944, and also lower than the January 31, 1944, stocks of 168,186,000 pounds. Stocks of condensed whole milk, case goods, at 7,328,000 pounds on January 31, were considerably higher than the stocks of a year earlier when only 6,248,000 pounds were reported in the hands of manufacturers.

HEARINGS ON PRICE CONTROL

(Concluded from page 8545)

plosive situation than at the end of the last war if controls go off before supplies are adequate.

War Food Administrator Marvin Jones expressed the view that the Price Control Act should be continued without revision, although some minor changes could be made that would improve the operation of the law. It would be unwise, however, in his opinion to make such minor changes at this late date.

With reference to plans to administer post-war loans to support prices, Mr. Jones said that no specific plans had been drawn up and that he doubted whether they can be worked out until it is known what conditions at that time will be. He expressed a preference for making loans to support prices rather than a government purchase and resale program.

William H. Davis, appointed to succeed Fred M. Vinson as Director of the Office of Economic Stabilization, in his testimony urged that the Price Control Act be extended for 18 months without revision and stated that anticipated wage problems after V-E day can be solved within the present general framework of wage control legislation.

William Green of the American Federation of Labor, Edward A. O'Neal of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Russell Smith of the National Farmers Union, and representatives of various consumer organizations in their testimony at the hearings on Thursday urged continuance of the law for 18 months and for some time after the end of the war.

Extension of CCC

The House on Friday began consideration of the Spence bill (H. R. 2023) to extend the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under a rule limiting debate but was unable to take final action before adjourning until Monday. The Spence bill would extend the Corporation's life until July 1, 1947, increase its borrowing power by $2,000,000,000, and place no limit on expenditures for subsidies. The Bankhead bill (S. 298) as passed by the Senate would increase the Corporation's borrowing power by $1,500,000,000 and limit expenditures for subsidies to $845,000,000.

Continuance of RFC Subsidies

The Senate Banking and Currency Committee has reported the bill (S. 502) to continue certain subsidy payments and purchase and resale operations by corporations created under the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act. The bill as reported provides for subsidies and anticipated losses in the following amounts: Materials and commodities other than rubber and rubber products produced outside the United States, $80,000,000; rubber and rubber products produced outside United States, $60,000,000; meat, $560,000,000; butter, $100,000,000; flour, $100,000,000; petroleum and petroleum products, $200,000,000; copper, lead and zinc, $88,000,000; other materials or commodities, $100,000,000. In event the entire amount of any one of these allocations is not required for its purpose, the unused portion, but not to exceed 10 per cent, may be used for making payments or purchases on any other item or items covered by the Act.

Trademarks

Legislation to codify present trademark laws was passed by the House on March 5. The bill (H. R. 1654) now goes to the Senate Patent Committee, which is expected to hold public hearings on the measure.

Substantially the same bill was passed by the House in the last Congress and a similar bill was passed by the House on two previous occasions. Each time the Senate failed to take final action before adjournment of Congress, although favorable reports by the Senate Patent Committee were made.

Other Legislative Proposals

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs has reported, without amendment, the bill (H. R. 2013) to extend for another year the life of the Lend-lease Act.

Representative Elliott of California has introduced a bill (H. R. 2437) to appropriate $500,000 for the agricultural wage stabilization program during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1946. This program is administered by the War Food Administration, under authority delegated by the Office of Economic Stabilization. Thus far 41 wage orders have been administered.

Davis Succeeds Vinson

William H. Davis, Chairman of the War Labor Board, was appointed on March 7 to succeed Fred M. Vinson as Director of the Office of Economic Stabilization, and Vice Chairman George W. Taylor of the War Labor Board was named to succeed Mr. Davis. Mr. Vinson's nomination was confirmed by the Senate on March 7.

Representative Trimble of Arkansas has introduced a bill (H. R. 2503) to amend the Federal Seed Act so as to require the origin of vegetable seeds, if known, to be stated on the label.

The House on Wednesday passed a bill requiring all graduate nurses 20 to 45 years of age to register, but exempting from induction into the Nurses' Corps women with dependent children, or children under 18 years, or married women whose marriages occurred prior to March 15, 1945.

Committee to Investigate Farm Marketing Announced

Representative John W. Flannagan of Virginia will be the chairman of subcommittee of the House Agricultural Committee authorized last week to make a study and investigation of the marketing and distribution of farm products. This subcommittee will be called the Special Committee on Farm Marketing, and Chairman Flannagan has appointed the following members: Harold D. Cooley (Dem., N. C.), Orville Zimmerman (Dem., Mo.), Stephen Pace (Dem., Ga.), Clifford R. Hope (Rep., Kans.), August H. Andresen (Rep., Minn.), and John Phillips (Rep., Calif.).

WFA to Buy Evaporated Milk

The War Food Administration has announced that it will accept offers for the sale of canned evaporated milk. Offers must be submitted beginning March 12, 1945, so as to be received by the Contract Development Section, Procurement and Price Support Branch, Office of Supply (CCC), War Food Administration, Washington 25, D. C., not later than Monday of each week. Offers received after Monday will be held for consideration the following week unless previously withdrawn by the offerer, WFA said.

Bolivian Tin Price Agreed On

The price to be paid for Bolivian tin during the remainder of the basic tin agreement between Bolivia and the United States will be increased from 60 to 63½ cents, it has been announced by the Foreign Economic Administration. An amendment to the basic contract, which has been in force since 1940, has been signed by representatives of the Bolivian producers, the Government of Bolivia and the United States Commercial Company, purchasing agency of the United States Government. The price of 63½ cents is to be effective from December 19, 1944, to June 30, 1945.

Users of Nitrate of Soda Should Place Orders Early

Those canners using nitrate of soda for odor control of lagooned cannery wastes should place their orders for this chemical at an early date to insure delivery prior to their canning season. Nitrate of soda is under allocation by the War Production Board. Users of nitrate of soda are required by WPB Order M-300 to send in their orders to their suppliers properly certified as to end use (the end use in this case would be classed as industrial) by the fifth day of the month preceding the month in which shipment is desired. A Federal explosive license obtainable from your local or county licensing agent or directly from the Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C., should accompany the order.

Fertilizer nitrate of soda may be purchased through your regular fertilizer dealer. By-product nitrate of soda is available in 100 pound paper bags in minimum carload quantities (30 tons) at $22.50 per ton, f.o.b. Kingsport, Tenn. Orders for carload quantities should be sent directly to The Barrett Division, Allied Chemical & Dye Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York 6, N. Y. Less than carload quantities may be obtained through the Harshaw Chemical Company, 445 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Ill.

In using the by-product nitrate of soda it is recommended that the dosage applied to control odor be increased by 10 per cent over that required when using fertilizer nitrate of soda. The differential in price between the two grades of nitrate of soda permits a saving in treatment cost in favor of the by-product material. Additional savings may be effected when several canners combine their orders so as to obtain the advantage of carload shipment.

Refrigerator Car Order Amended

C. W. Taylor, agent for the Interstate Commerce Commission, has issued an order removing the restrictions on the use of refrigerator cars for loading canned asparagus, cream style corn and tomato juice during the period March 1 to March 20. The order, which is known as "General Permit No. 4 under Taylor's ICC Order No. 219, Pursuant to ICC Service Order No. 95, as amended," follows:

Permission is granted for any common carrier by railroad, subject to the Interstate Commerce Act, to disregard entirely the provisions of Taylor's ICC Order No. 219 of August 14, 1944, as amended insofar as it applies to the furnishing or supplying of a refrigerator car or cars for loading canned asparagus, cream style corn and tomato juice in straight or mixed carloads of these three commodities or transporting or moving a refrigerator car or cars loaded with canned asparagus, cream style corn and tomato juice in straight or mixed carloads of these three commodities originating in States east of the eastern borders of the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and north of the northern borders of the States of Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina providing the waybills shall show reference to this general permit.

This general permit will become effective 12:01 a. m., March 1, 1945, and shall expire 12:01 a. m., March 20, 1945.

An article in the INFORMATION LETTER for February 4 concerning the general restrictions placed on the movement of canned foods in refrigerator cars should have added that Order No. 219 only restricts a railroad which has not obtained a permit from ICC Agent C. W. Taylor to move a given lot or lots of canned foods in a restricted area. Order No. 219 in no way restricts the movement of canned foods in refrigerator cars in instances where the railroad has complied with the terms of the order by securing the necessary permit from Mr. Taylor.

New Association Members

The following firms have been admitted into membership in the Association since February 24, 1945:

Arcadia Canning Co., Arcadia, Ind.

W. F. Assau Canning Co., Baltimore, Md.

Chicago Food Products Co., Chicago, Ill.

Clarksville Canning Co., Clarksville, Iowa.

Copalis Canning Co., Copalis Beach, Wash.

Delta Canning Co., Raymondville, Tex.

Easterlin Packing Co., Andersonville, Ga.

Hougland Packing Co., Inc., Franklin, Ind.

Leisure Packing Co., Elwood, Ind.

The School of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Mo.

Seiter's, Inc., Post Falls, Idaho.

Canners Get Pork for Tushonka

The War Food Administration is making available to canners in the New York City trade area limited quantities of frozen pork cuts to enable them to fulfill their government contracts for canned tushonka, a Russian pork product. The meat will be distributed among the canners in amounts proportionate to each canner's contract, and is being made available because the canners are not able to obtain enough pork to fulfill their Commodity Credit Corporation contracts from regular trade sources.

Offers Invited for Canned Sea Herring; Maine Sardines

The War Food Administration has announced that it will now receive offers for the sale of such canned sea herring and canned Maine sardines required to be set aside in 1945, pursuant to War Food Order No. 44, as amended, or in accordance with subsequent orders. Purchasers will be made by negotiated contracts executed in the name of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The contract terms and conditions are set forth in three separate documents: Form FDA-474, "Standard Contract Conditions" contains conditions which apply to purchases of all commodities; Form PBT-401, "Canned Fish—General Contract Conditions," contains additional terms applying to purchases of all species of canned fish; and Form PBO-401, "Canned Sea Herring and Canned Maine Sardines—Offer of Sale," which details the conditions applying specifically to those types of fish.

Canners who expect to operate during 1945 are requested to submit their proposals as soon as practicable, but in any case not later than April 15, 1945. It is intended that one contract will cover the entire quantity of canned sea herring and canned Maine sardines purchased for delivery to government agencies during the 1945 packing season and only one contract number will be assigned to each canner.

Offers must be submitted on prescribed Offer Form PBO-401, in an original and four signed copies, and must be mailed to: Contract Development Section, Procurement and Price Support Branch, Office of Supply (CCC), War Food Administration, Washington 25, D. C., at any time prior to but not later than April 15, 1945.

Pear Growing in Washington

Many of the factors that make for success in growing this crop under conditions prevailing in Washington are discussed in a recent publication issued by the State Experiment Station at Pullman, entitled "Pear Growing and Handling in Washington" (Popular Bulletin No. 174). These include choice of location which will provide proper air drainage, climate, varieties, orchard management, use of pressure test for determining maturity, harvesting, packing and shipping, as well as control of diseases and insects.